Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PAGE 01 GENEVA 01008 141848Z 73 **ACTION EUR-12** INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W ---- 039074 R 141740Z FEB 75 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 724 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS USMISSION EC BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY DUBLIN AMEMBASSY HELSINKI AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY OSLO

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PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB XG ILO ICFTU WCL

SUBJ: SECOND EAST-WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 887 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

FUFHAU/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 2410

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1. SUMMARY. VIEWS OF GENEVA REP OF ICFTU ON SECOND EAST-WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE AND ON RELATIIONS BETWEEN ICFTU AND WCL. END SUMMARY.

2. JOSE AQUIRIANO, ICFTU REP (WHO ALSO SERVES AS SECRETARY OF ILO WORKERS GROUP) SAID THE SOVIETS WANTED A RELATIONSHIP WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS THAT WAS DIRECT AND WHICH THEY COULD CONTROL. FOR THESE REASONS THEY HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE EAST-WEST CONFERENCE SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY A JONT COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ICFTU. WFTU AND WCL. THIS HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE WE REPRESENTATIVES AND THE ICFTU AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS ARE HANDLED BY AQUIRIANO. HE EXPECTS THE SOVIETS WILL SUGGEST FUTURE MEETINGS BE HELD EITHER IN HELSINKI OR MOSCOW. THE ICFTU POSITION IS THAT THE UPCOMING MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE ILO AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE. IN REGARD TO SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS THE ICFTU WOULD LIKE TO SEE PERIODIC EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES SPONSORED BY THE ILO. THE TRIPARTITE NATURE OF THESE CONFERENCES AND THE USE OF ILO STANDING ORDERS WOULD SERVE TO FRUSTRATE SOVIET POLITICAL ACTIVITY. AQUIRIANO SAID THAT THE CONSENSUS IN THE ICFTU WAS THAT CONTACT WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS WAS INEVITABLE AND THE FORMAT OF THE WEST-EAST CONFERENCE MET THIS MINIMUM CONSENSUS. HOWEVER, ICFTU AFFILIATES HAVE DIFFERENT REASONS FOR SUPPORTING THE CONFERENCE. FOR INSTANCE, THE FINNS WERE IN FAVOR BECAUSE THEY HAD NO CHOICE; THE DGB WAS UNABLE TO OPPOSE BECAUSE OF THEIR PREVIOUS COMMITMENT TO EAST-WEST MEETINGS; THE ITALIANS ICFTU AFFILIATES WERE COOL BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS DISCOURAGE ITALIAN COMMUNIST UNIONS FROM CLOSER COOPERATION IN ITALY; AND THE NORWEGIANS ARE IN FAVOR BECAUSE THEY (AND PARTICULARLY SANDGREN) DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT.

3. ICFTU RELATIONS WITH WCL. AQUIRIANO SIAD THERE WERE TWO OBSTACLES TO MERGER BTWEEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS: (1) THE BELGIAN SOCIALISTS WOULD NOT AGREE TO GIVE THEIR SEAT ON THE ICFTU BOARD TO THEIR CHRISTAIAN RIVALS AND (2) THE REAL AIM OF THE WCL IS TO ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE ICFTU AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WFT AND A MERGER WITH THE ICFTU WOULD MAKE THIS IMPOSSIBLE.

AQUIRIANO BELIEVES WCL CONSIDERATION OF MERGE IS NOT SERIOUS.

AQUIRIANO HAS URGED KERSTEN TO APPROACH THE WCL THROUGH THEIR

DUTCH AFFILIATES BECAUSE THEY ALREADY HAVE A WORKING RELATIONSHIP

WITH THE NIV. HE SAID KERSTEN HAS NOT BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC

ABOUT HIS SUGGESTION. DALE

BT

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